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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,477	06/03/2005	Toshiharu Kobayashi	P/2850-110	3344
2352	7590	04/10/2008	EXAMINER	
OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN 1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 100368403				FOGARTY, CAITLIN ANNE
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1793				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/10/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/537,477	KOBAYASHI ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	CAITLIN FOGARTY	1793

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2008.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 June 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                        |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Status of Claims***

1. Claims 1 – 24 are presented for this examination.

### ***Status of Previous Rejections***

2. The following rejections are maintained:

- Claims 1 – 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Cetel et al. (EP 0 848 071 A1).
- Claims 1 – 24 rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 – 3 of US. Patent No. 6,966,956 B2.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 1 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Cetel et al. (EP 0 848 071 A1).

Cetel et al. is applied to claims 1 – 24 as set forth in the September 19, 2007 Office action.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed January 22, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Arguments are summarized as follows:

- a. The specification provides no reason for limiting the composite ratio of group III, series 2 and 3 metals (ruthenium, palladium, rhodium, iridium, and

osmium) to the claimed range of 0-10 wt% and does not substantially disclose an alloy including Ru.

b. There is no teaching or discussion in the written description contained in the reference of a superalloy composition containing 3.0-20.0 wt% of Co.

c. In regards to the double patenting rejection, US 6,966,956 discloses to use 1.0-4.0 wt% of Ru in the nickel base superalloy and applicants claim in the present application the use of 4.1 - 14.0 wt% Ru. Since the subject reference includes no teaching to expand the amount of Ru taught for inclusion therein, and particularly to the upper limit of the range now recited in the claims of this application, applicants submit that there is also no basis for finding that the present claims would be 'obvious' to one having an ordinary level of skill in this art over the disclosure contained in US 6,966,956.

Examiner's responses are as follows:

a. – b. The scope of Cetel et al. is not limited to the specific embodiments it teaches (see *In re Fracalossi* 215 USPQ 569 (CCPA 1982)). Cetel et al. discloses that the nickel base superalloy contains 0 – 10.0 wt% of one or more elements selected from the group consisting of group III, series 2 and 3 metals (ruthenium, palladium, rhodium, iridium, and osmium) which overlaps with the range of 4.1 – 14.0 wt% Ru recited in instant claim 1. The reference also discloses that the nickel base superalloy contains 3.0 - 20.0 wt% Co which overlaps with the range of 0 - 9.9 wt% Co recited in instant claim 1 (see p. 2 lines

29-36 of Cetel et al.). Also, see the 102(b)/103(a) rejection in the September 19, 2007 Office action.

c. The disclosed composition of 4.0 wt% Ru in US 6,966,956 is very close to the recited composition of 4.1 wt% Ru in the instant application. A prima facie case of obviousness exists where the claimed ranges and prior art ranges do not overlap but are close enough that one skilled in the art would have expected them to have the same properties. Titanium Metals Corp. of America v. Banner, 778 F.2d 775, 227 USPQ 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985). See MPE 2144.05.

***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CAITLIN FOGARTY whose telephone number is

(571)270-3589. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Roy King/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 1793

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